

to the equipment. Neither of the prior art devices are incorporated within the individual piece of equipment.

In the Siegle device the coded signal transmitter is a stationary unit located at a central location. This is a critical difference between the Siegle device and the pending application. The control device within the pending application is internal and is provided with activation through the input device. The encapsulated control member interacts directly with the power supply and driver. The independent claims have been amended to more clearly reflect this feature.

The Siegle et al patent states that “[A]t least one power tool 6 is allocated to the code signal transmitter 1.” (Col 2, lines 31-32) There is no mention within the Siegle et al patent of using multiple codes to individualize individual pieces of equipment. The Siegle et al patent would have no need to individualize tools as the teachings within the patent are toward the centralized recharging of a number of tools for use in a factory or similar setting. The disclosed system enables individual tools to be set with codes and is applicable for homeowners as well as use in factories or construction sites.

The appliance lock disclosed in U.S. 5,231,310 to Oh again relates to an external device. The ‘310 device is secured to the electrical outlet and the equipment to be protected is then plugged, and secured, into the security device. Again, this is an external device. In order for the Oh device to work there must be an external electrical source supplying power to the equipment. Although this will work for a TV or VCR, this would not work with any piece of equipment that is either battery powered or is moved frequently. Additionally, one

feature of the disclosed system is the safety factor from theft. Using the Oh device, a thief could cut the cord, take the machine and simply rewire the power cord. In the disclosed system, the control device is internally sealed within the equipment and cannot be removed. Anyone purchasing a piece of equipment containing the disclosed device would know that the seller would either have the code or the equipment was likely stolen.

The Examiner states that the Oh patent discloses the use of identification codes to enable access to the system. Applicant is not seeking to patent the concept of access codes, but rather a novel use of access codes as a means to internally control the on/off status of a unique piece of equipment having self-containing programming.

The Examiner states that it would be obvious to take the input means of Siegle et al and include input keys taught in Oh. This combination would result in a stationary transmitter requiring an access code to activate. This combination still would not provide internal control to the equipment nor would it provide individualized codes for each piece of equipment. The Siegle/Oh combination would still require a person to take the piece of equipment to the centralized unit for recharging and would still require all pieces of equipment to have the same access codes. This would still work for situations such as factories but would not be a consideration for individuals purchasing a piece of equipment.

The Examiner rejects claims 2-4 stating that the stationary transmitter of the Siegle et al, when combined with the programmable timer and readout panel of the Oh device would produce the disclosed system. Again, as stated above, the combination of the two patents would produce a stationary transmitter than was activated during certain periods and

contained a readout panel. This would still not produce the internal device of the disclosed system. The location of the timer and readout panel on the central transmitter would not provide any individualized timing capabilities or readout to the individual piece of equipment. Further, combining the Siegle and Oh, the person using the piece of equipment would not have any indication as to the status of the equipment. Additionally, since the Siegle device transmits a single code to multiple power tools, the transmitter located read out would have no method of correlating the power tool with the readout.

The Examiner further states that Siegle teaches the system for operating a piece of equipment for a predetermined period of time and that Oh teaches that the predetermined period of time can be selected by the user. As stated heretofore, neither Siegle or Oh teach the use of an internal device and therefore, the combination of the Siegle and Oh devices, in respect to setting the timing, merely enables a user to set the central, stationary transmitter to work for a user selected period of time. This combination does not, in any way, teach the incorporation of the user-selected timer into the individual piece of equipment. The combination does not produce the disclosed internal system, nor are there any teachings within either patent to suggest that a combination of the two could be placed internally into the equipment.

With respect to claims 5 and 6, the claims have been amended to emphasize that the disclosed system is located internally. The Siegle device uses wires to connect the transmitter to the piece of equipment forming an external-to-external connection. The disclosed system maintains the system internally, within the exterior case. Although the

transmission section of the Siegle stationary transmitter is apparently placed within a case, either separate from the transmitter or included within the transmitter, there are no teachings within the specification that the unit is encased, within the outer case, in a solid material, thereby making it inaccessible. Additionally, no matter how the Siegle transmission is enclosed it is still an external discrete element from the individual equipment and does not overcome this primary difference between the cited art and the pending application.

It is noted that Siegle teaches that the equipment is a handheld tool. Neither applicant nor Siegle are attempting to patent a hand held tool. Rather, applicant is disclosing a novel, internal locking method for equipment, including handheld tools. As pointed out heretofore, the Siegle and pending system are differentiated, among other things, by the individualization of the codes and the fact that the pending system is an internal vs. external method of controlling usage.

Again, the ability of the Siegle equipment to switch into an inoperable mode after a certain period of time does not provide it with the ability for the time period to be set at the equipment. Except for cutting the power, the Siegle device still requires the external transmitter to code in any function. The only internal function of the Siegle system is stopping, and even that has to be initially set by the external transmitter.

As stated, Oh teaches a locking device for the exterior case. Applicant is not patenting the concept of a locking device. Locking devices have been used for centuries. Applicant is patenting the locking device used in conjunction with the internal control member within an individual piece of equipment.

The Examiner states that the Siegle patent discloses a solenoid, however Column 2, lines 50 – 60 discloses a power circuit 12. A power circuit does not necessarily include a solenoid, although a solenoid requires a power circuit. However, even if the Siegle device used a solenoid, it still would not produce the disclosed individualized, internal system.

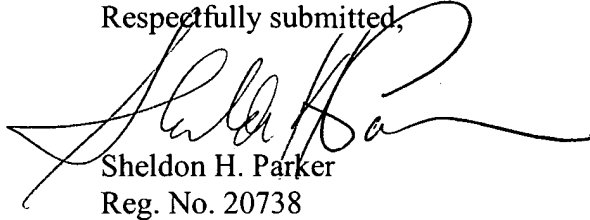
In the Siegel device the intelligence, or programmed parameters, is in the transmitter. As stated in Col. 3, lines 5 - 10, other data concerning the operation of the power tool can be transferred, indicating that the programming is not within the equipment itself. In the disclosed invention, the individual equipment contains the programmed parameters and the input device, whether it is a keypad, a remote scanning touch pad, or infra red sensor, merely activates the program within the equipment.

Claims 20 – 22 have been added to reflect that the activating device can be a portable remote, whether this is a scanning touch key or infra red, that works in conjunction with the input member. It should be noted that this differs from the prior art in that the activating device of the disclosed invention is a self-contained, portable device. Neither the Seigel nor the Oh devices are self-contained portable activators. Additionally, the activating device of the disclosed system is a “dumb” unit, serving merely to activate the internal programs, similar to the locking devices used for automobiles. Although reference is made to the use of a remote in the Oh patent, it is for the programming of the device and not simply an activation tool to initiate the internal programming. Thus, the Oh remote must have a level of intelligence equal to that of a television remote.

Claims 9 and 10 have been deleted.

In view of the foregoing Claim amendments and Remarks it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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